

Appl. No. 09/997,652
Amdt. Dated April 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 19, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

Submitted herewith are replacement sheets for Figs. 2, 4, 6-11 and a new Fig. 11 all of which are labeled "Replacement Sheet" in conformity with 37 CFR §1.121.

Figures 2, 4 and 6-11 have been amended to include the separate reference numbers for the first and second segments of the first and third grooves which have been added to the specification.

New Fig. 11 depicts a pressure-sensitive adhesive 28' that is used to detachably fix the body fluid absorbent member to said cover member.

The Examiner is requested to acknowledge receipt and review and approve the proposed drawing amendment so that applicants' can proceed with having replacement drawing sheets prepared and submitted.

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• • R E M A R K S / A R G U M E N T S • •

The Official Action of January 19, 2005 has been thoroughly studied. Accordingly, the changes presented herein for the application, considered together with the following comments, are believed to be sufficient to place the application into condition for allowance.

On page 2 of the Official Action the Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.183(a). Under this objection to the drawings the Examiner stated that the figures did not show a detachably fixed absorbent member and cover member as claimed in claim 8.

In response to the objections to the drawings, applicants are herewith submitting a new Fig. 11 that depicts a pressure-sensitive adhesive 28' that is used to detachably fix the body fluid absorbent member to the cover member. It is understood that the pressure-sensitive adhesive is only one embodiment of a means to detachably fix the body fluid absorbent member to the cover member and that the specification also teaches a mechanical fastener that is known under the trademark MAGICTAPE.

On page 3 of the Official Action the Examiner has objected to the specification for not providing proper antecedent basis for the "first segment" and "second segment" of the grooves.

In response to this objection the specification has been amended to include a description of the "first segment" and "second segment" of the grooves that is commensurate and supported by the original drawings. In addition reference numbers for the first and second segments of the grooves

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have been relied upon and added to Figs. 2, 4 and 6-11 to make the drawings commensurate with the specification.

The Examiner further noted that the specification did provide proper antecedent basis for the "crotch portion." In order to resolve this basis of the objection to the specification, claim 1 has been changed to recite the "crotch region."

The changes to the specification and drawings are believed to address and overcome the outstanding objection to the specification.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Under this rejection the Examiner correctly notes that the first segment and second segment of the grooves do not extend into the front and rear end portions 26 and 27.

In response to the rejected of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph independent claim 1 has been changed to recite that the first segment and second segment of the grooves extend into the front and rear waist regions and are excluded from extending into the front and rear end portions 26 and 27.

By the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that each of the at least one groove consists of a first segment that extends into the crotch region and the front waist region and a second segment that extends into the crotch region and the rear waist region, the first and second segments of each individual ones of the at least one groove being aligned with one another longitudinally and being excluded from extending across a longitudinal center of the crotch

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region of the diaper and being excluded from extending into the front and rear end portions of the diaper.

Support for this change to independent claim 1 can be readily found in the drawings.

It is noted that this change to claim 1 was made to more clearly recite the structure which was previously recited in claim 1.

There are no prior art rejections in the Office Action.

The changes presented herein for the specification, claims and drawings are believed to overcome all the outstanding rejections and objections.

Therefore, entry of the changes to the specification, claims, and drawings and an early allowance of the claims are believed to be in order.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested.

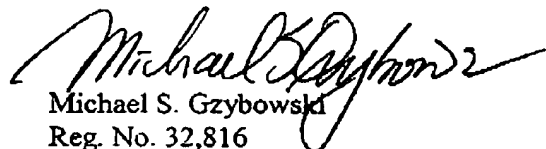
If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved; the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of

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time fees, to Deposit Account No. 12-2136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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